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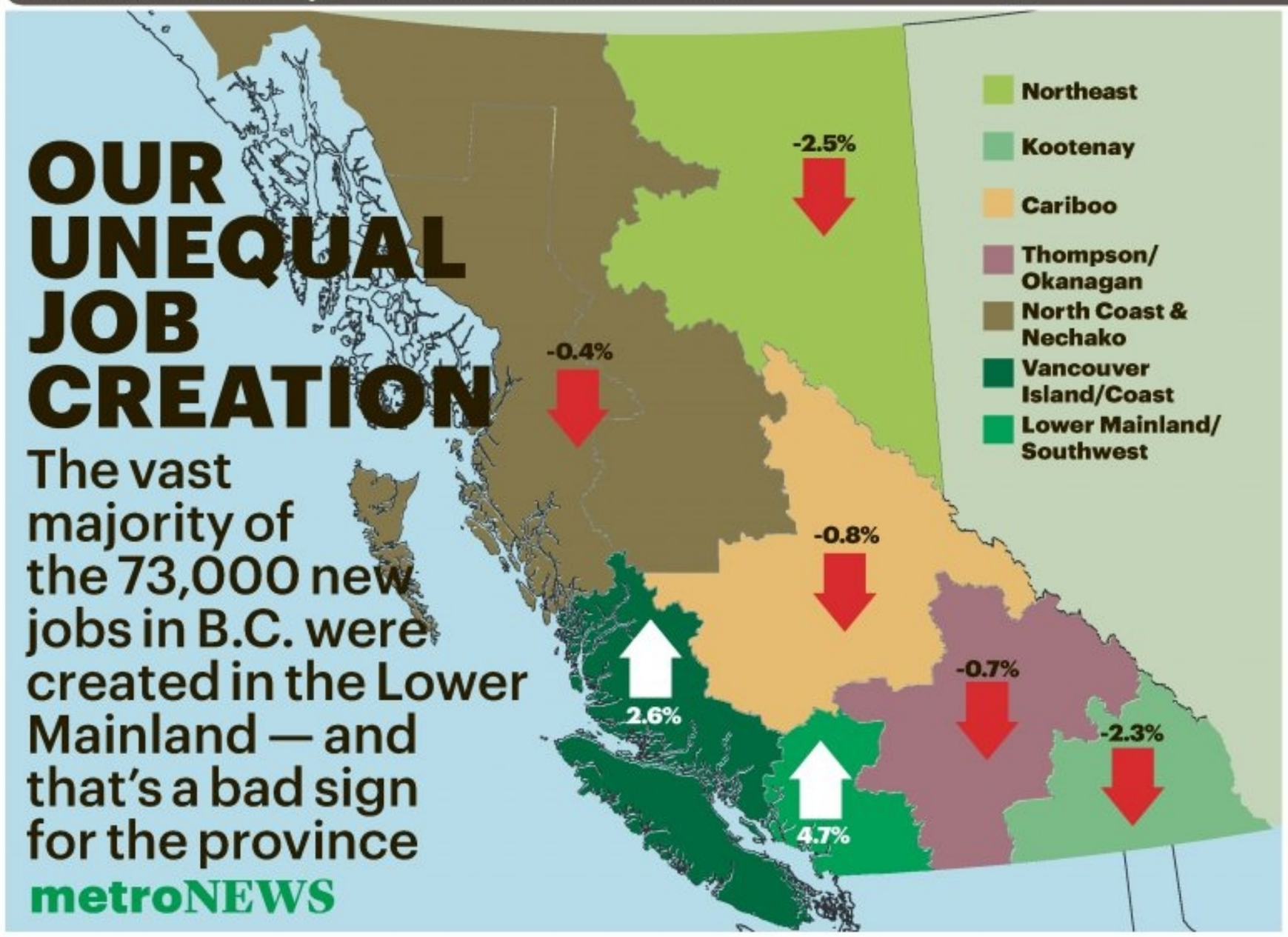
metroLIFE

OUR UNEQUAL JOB CREATION

The vast majority of the 73,000 new jobs in B.C. were created in the Lower Mainland — and that's a bad sign for the province

metroNEWS



OPIOID CRISIS

Feds accused of regional bias in fentanyl response

A Vancouver Liberal MP is speaking out about what she considers a frustratingly slow response by her own federal government to the crisis of fentanyl, a potent opioid linked to more than 500 overdose deaths last year in B.C. and Alberta alone.

"I feel it's something we need to be doing something about faster than we are doing it," Hedy Fry, the longtime Liberal MP for Vancouver Centre, said in an interview.

The number of Canadian deaths from fentanyl — often used to cut other drugs, such as heroin, cocaine or oxycodone — is highest in B.C. and Alberta, prompting Fry to suggest that a regional bias, albeit unintentional, might be at play.

374

The Coroners Service of British Columbia reported 374 illicit drug overdose deaths linked to fentanyl between January and Oct. 31 last year.

"I think that it is that the whole country isn't suffering from the same problem — it's B.C. and Alberta," Fry said. "It's now starting in Ontario, and I would suggest to you that once it gets bad in Ontario, we will notice action being taken."

Terry Lake, B.C.'s health minister, made a similar point at an opioid summit in Ottawa last November.

"It took a while for them to understand the magnitude of the situation, because the numbers here in B.C. are so much greater on a per capita basis than they are in Ontario," Lake said Friday.

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Brazilian woman mistakes Lord of the Rings figurine for a saint. **World**

Temporary modular housing more expensive, warns broker

CONSTRUCTION

Units placed on valuable real estate will cost the city: Expert

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

The principal of a Vancouver real estate brokerage firm is arguing that placing low-density temporary modular housing on a city-owned site at Main and Terminal is a poor use of city property, and the units will end up costing more than a conventional condominium building.

"Our concern is over the utilization of a very valuable, very prime resource, namely, a $30 to $35 million property," said David Goodman of HQ Commercial and publisher of the Goodman Report, a newsletter detailing listings and trends in rental apartment building sales.

The city has built a 40-unit modular apartment building at Main and Terminal, a construction method that is faster and cheaper than conventional building methods.

The intention is to use the buildings to temporarily house people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, using sites that are vacant as they await development.

The city, however, disputes the way Goodman has calculated the cost of the program.

Goodman notes that a condo near the Main and Terminal site is selling for $1,000 per square foot.

But he calculates that the modular units will cost the city $1,495 per square foot, that rises to $15 million, Goodman said, with the land cost.

"What could the city do with the land if it wasn't putting trailers on it? They've taken an asset out of circulation," he said, adding he supports the modular housing idea in principle but thinks this is the wrong location for it.

But because the city-owned site is currently sitting empty as it awaits development at some point in the future, only the construction costs of the modular housing should be counted, said Mukhtar Latif, chief housing officer for the City of Vancouver.

By that measure, Latif believes it's a cost-effective and flexible solution to immediate housing needs.

"These homes provide a self-contained high quality home at a rent that is more affordable than market and is a better solution than alternative temporary housing options such as purchasing and refurbishing existing housing," he wrote in an email to Metro.

The $85,000 cost of each 250-square foot unit is relatively cheap, Latif added, and the modules can be reused on other sites.

Goodman calculated a similar cost per unit, at $87,500.

The density (5.0 FSR, or floor space ratio) currently allowed for the site means the city could put a 15-storey, 250-unit building on the site, Goodman argued.

Alternatively, the city could sell the site to a private developer for $30 million and either require the developer to include social housing on the site, or take the money and build social housing elsewhere.

In contrast, the 40-unit, three-storey building the city has constructed on the site is just 1.65 FSR, and occupies only 35 per cent of the entire site, according to Goodman.

Modular units are assembled at Vancouver's first temporary modular housing project at 220 Terminal Ave. in December. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO

> Our concern is over the utilization of a very valuable, very prime resource, namely, a $30 to $35 million property.
> David Goodman, principal at HQ Commercial

$15M

Construction costs will total $3.5 million, but the price tag rises to $15 million with the land cost, David Goodman says.

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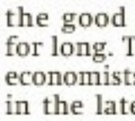
Job growth is unequal, unsustainable: Report

PROVINCE

Vast majority of new jobs in B.C. are in Lower Mainland



Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

B.C.'s job boom hasn't been good for everyone and even for those who have new jobs, the good times won't last for long. That's the message economists want to highlight in the latest policy note by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives.

About 73,000 new jobs were created in the province last year, putting B.C. third in the country in terms of job growth since the 2008 recession, but the vast majority (83 per cent) were located in Metro Vancouver. Those living just outside Metro Vancouver saw some benefits, with the Fraser Valley, Whistler, Squamish, and the Sunshine Coast gaining 11 per cent of the jobs. Vancouver Island also saw some job growth.

But the rest of the province lost jobs in 2016, according to a CCPA study.

That degree of unequal job distribution is a bad sign for B.C., said CCPA's senior economist, Iglika Ivanova.

"The bad news is it's not sustainable at all and even in the good times it has been very regionally unequal."

Builders work on a new home in North Vancouver last year. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

> **The headline statistics of job growth don't mean anything in (North and Interior) communities.**
> Economist Iglika Ivanova

The new jobs are concentrated in the big cities because economic activity has been largely driven by real estate and that kind of growth won't go on forever, she warned.

"That's what makes it unsustainable. The reason why (families) can invest so much in real estate is not necessarily because their income is growing, but it is because they are taking on more debt."

The debt will eventually catch up to them and impact other types of spending, like retail or entertainment, she explained.

The hot housing market also makes career choices that much more difficult for families.

"Sometimes commentators will say if you can't afford to live here, you should move somewhere else. But how can you move if all the jobs are in Metro Vancouver?"

In general, healthy economies are boosted by a variety of sectors and not just one industry, said Ivanova, who called B.C.'s economy "imbalanced." The latest data on B.C.'s economic activity show real estate accounted for one-third of the province's GDP in 2015, she said.

That imbalance is felt most strongly in B.C.'s North and Interior, where communities have seen steady job losses since 2016, according to CCPA.

"The headline statistics of job growth don't mean anything in those communities," said Ivanova.

Critics have said building energy projects like a dam or LNG terminal would create mostly temporary jobs and most have not materialized yet. A better idea is to create long-term jobs in forestry or alternative energies like geothermal or wind, said Ivanova.

ECONOMY

Growth may slow, says RBC

British Columbia's high performance economic engine is forecast to gear down this year as the province's housing market cools, say some economic experts.

B.C.'s economy has led Canada over the past two years, but that trend is not expected to hold in 2017, with Manitoba and Ontario projected to lead the country, says an RBC Economics forecast.

Job creation and economic growth are important for Premier Christy Clark as her government seeks a fifth consecutive mandate in May's provincial election.

But RBC forecasts the province's economic growth will slip below the national average for the first time in six years. RBC expects B.C.'s economy to grow by 1.7 per cent, just below the national average of 1.8 per cent.

"It's been very strong in B.C. in the last couple of years, getting major support from the housing market," Paul Ferley, RBC's assistant chief economist, said in a telephone interview from Toronto. "There's the feeling that that support is not likely going to persist through the forecast, and with that you get a moderation in the growth rate."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

1.7%

B.C.'s predicted growth rate for 2017, just below the national average of 1.8 per cent.

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GARBAGE PICKUP

Councillor believes residents owed rebate

Jen St. Denis
Metro | Vancouver

Coun. Melissa De Genova thinks residents of Vancouver who have been without the basic city service of garbage pickup because of icy, uncleared streets should get a property tax rebate.

"Some people are now four weeks without the sanitation services that they pay for," said De Genova.

"Mayor Gregor Robertson and Vision Vancouver just increased property taxes, but when you look at the (additional) increased fees, the average household is paying an increase of five per cent."

It's an idea the NPA councillor plans to include in an upcoming motion to council, along with an inquiry to staff to investigate how Vancouver can plan better for snow and ice events. The property tax rebate motion will ask staff to investigate the feasibility of the idea. If there have been overall savings to the city from not collecting garbage, De Genova said, those should be passed on to residents.

NPA Coun. George Affleck will also be bringing forward a motion asking for an independent, third-party review of how the city's response to such weather can be improved. He pointed to two other reports completed by city staff following snow storms in 2008 and in 2012, and said the time has come to ask for an outside review.

POLICE

Driver penalized for snowy windshield

With a chance of flurries in the forecast, Lower Mainland residents may want to take note of what happened to one Surrey driver who neglected to clean the snow off from the car windshield before heading out onto the road last week.

RCMP officers pulled over the driver after spotting the car on the road with a very snowy windshield — and with only a face-sized hole to see through.

Surrey RCMP tweeted a photo of the windshield to warn others of what not to do when it snows.

This windscreen full of snow got a driver pulled over. SURREY RCMP/TWITTER

And it seems there could be more windshield clearing in the near future for Vancouver-area residents. There is a chance of snow flurries Monday night. WANYEE LI/METRO

Hundreds of people hit the ice at Trout Lake on Saturday. DAVID P. BALL/METRO

Warm weather closes Trout Lake for skating

WINTER

Frozen lake was slushy in areas after heavy usage

Wanyee Li
Metro | Vancouver

It appears the Canadian dream of playing hockey on a frozen pond was short-lived in Vancouver, as the park board announced Sunday that it is closing Trout Lake after slush and thin ice in several areas made it dangerous for skating.

The frozen lake was opened on Thursday and lasted three days before authorities say they were forced to close it due to heavy usage over the weekend and rising temperatures.

Inspection teams spotted at least five slushy areas Sunday morning and rangers posted signs asking residents to stay off the ice until further notice, according to a written statement by Donnie Rosa, director of recreation for the Parks Board.

The Parks Board says it will reopen the lake for skating if the ice re-thickens.

It estimates between 1,500 to 2,000 people were on the lake on Saturday.

The ice was five inches thick Thursday when authorities first opened the lake for skating.

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Ottawa's self-esteem issue worn on sleeves

CULTURE

Fun take on T-shirt slogan sparks debate

Haley Ritchie
Metro | Ottawa

Could Ottawa eventually become a major cultural hub — the Portland of Canada? Maybe, says designer Dominic Coballe, but first they need to deal with their self-esteem problem.

Coballe, co-founder of N-Product, is promoting those conversations in 2017 with a tongue-in-cheek art project: a black shirt that reads "Ottawa vs. Itself."

The T-shirt is a take on a project in Detroit, where graphic designer Tommey Walker created T-shirts with the slogan: "Detroit vs. Everybody." A similar design in Toronto sparked a copyright war in 2015. Coballe was discussing the shirts with friends last summer when he made an honest joke about Ottawa.

Dominic Coballe wearing one of the T-shirts he designed about Ottawa's image problem. HALEY RITCHIE/METRO

"Ottawa could never get away with an Ottawa vs. Everybody. It would more likely be Ottawa vs. itself. We're our own worst enemies," he said. "Whether you were raised here or you're a transplant, you kind of get that vibe: We don't think we're cool enough."

> **We're actually better than what we think we are.**
> Dominic Coballe

Coballe Photoshopped a mockup of the design and, after posting the image on Facebook, there was such a demand for T-shirts that Coballe decided to print a run as an art project.

"A lot of people loved it. Some people were like, 'What does it mean? Are you taking a swipe at Ottawa?'" he said. Whether you get the joke or not, Coballe said he's hoping it gets people talking about the city.

"I'm from Ottawa, I love this town, we have a family here. Some people see it as 'we're our own worst enemies' but some people think it's uplifting, because we're also our own worst critic. We're actually better than what we think we are."

EDMONTON

Cemetery searches for its artist-in-residence

Kevin Maimann
Metro | Edmonton

Here's an eerily good opportunity: The City of Edmonton is giving one artist the chance of a lifetime — to work among the dead.

The Edmonton Arts Council has put out a call for applications to be the first artist-in-residence hosted by City of Edmonton Cemeteries.

The chosen artist will get to work on art in local cemeteries as a full-time job for six months, with a primary studio space on the second floor of a building at Mount Pleasant.

While some might find the space unnerving, Teena Changarathil, supervisor of cemetery sales and operations with the city, said it could be inspiring.

"It's very historic. A lot of what we do with cemeteries is we have beautiful parkland, and it's really a warm and inviting place," Changarathil said.

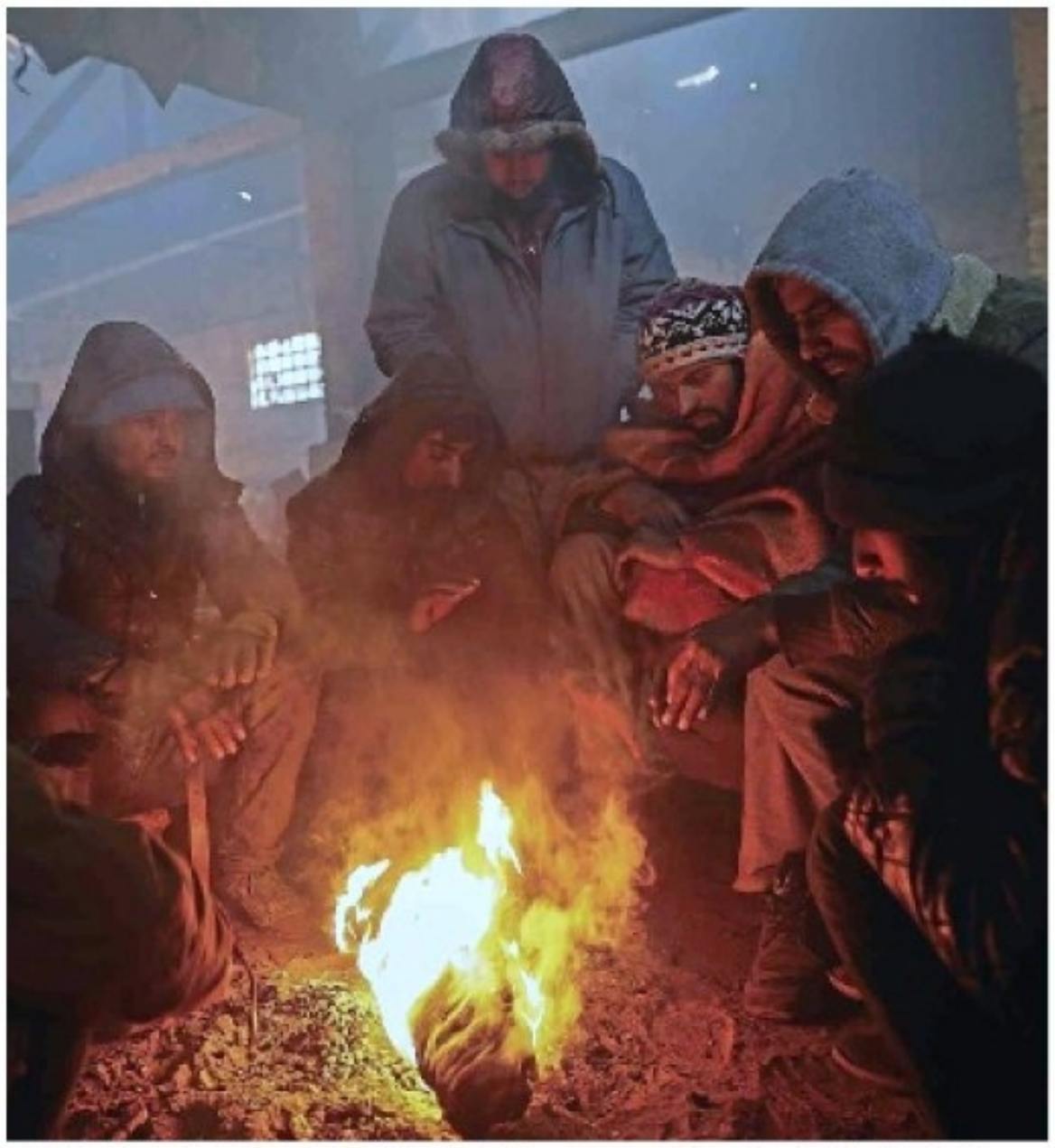
"Once you get past the initial cemetery part of it and actually focus in on the area and the work that we do and our staff and the customers that we work with on a regular basis, the sombreness kind of fades away and the comfort and connections and history comes to light."

Teena Changarathil
KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Some bodies buried in Edmonton's Mount Pleasant cemetery date back to the 1800s.

The building that houses the studio space sits on one of the city's highest geographical points, and also holds administrative offices and niches for cremated remains.

The selected artist will develop a "body" of work throughout their residency and will showcase their final products with an exhibition at an undetermined location.



WEATHER EXTREME COLD GRIPS EUROPE Migrants warm themselves by the fire inside a derelict customs warehouse on Saturday. Blizzards and dangerously low temperatures persisted in parts of Europe, prompting Pope Francis to draw attention to the homeless suffering in the cold. In Serbia, aid workers scrambled to help hundreds of migrants sleeping in makeshift shelters. The extreme winter weather that has gripped Europe has caused more than a dozen deaths and left many villages cut off. AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Trump accepts Russia hacked U.S., aide says

POLITICS

President-elect has expressed skepticism on Putin's role

Donald Trump, right, has been skeptical that Vladimir Putin's Russia meddled in the recent U.S. election. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump's incoming chief of staff, Reince Priebus, said Sunday that Trump has accepted that Russia was responsible for the Democratic National Committee and a top aide to former rival Hillary Clinton.

"He's not denying that entities in Russia were behind this particular campaign," Priebus said in a television interview Sunday.

That's more than Trump himself has said. As for potential retaliation, aides said those are decisions that Trump will make after he becomes president on Jan. 20.

Intelligence officials allege that Moscow directed a series of hacks in order to help Trump win the White House in the race against Clinton. Trump has expressed skepticism about Russia's role and declined to say whether he agrees that the meddling was done on his behalf.

In an interview after a briefing on the findings, Trump said he "learned a lot" from his discussions with intelligence officials, but he declined to say whether he accepted their assertion about Russia's motives. Trump has said that improving relations with Russia would be a good thing and that only "stupid" people would disagree.

"My suspicion is these hopes will be dashed pretty quickly," said Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky. "The Russians are clearly a big adversary. And they demonstrated it by trying to mess around in our election."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ISRAEL

Truck attack kills four

A Palestinian truck driver on Sunday rammed his vehicle into a crowd of Israeli soldiers at a Jerusalem tourist spot, killing four and wounding 17 in the deadliest single attack in more than a year. The attack came at a time when Palestinians have warned of consequences if Donald Trump moves the U.S. Embassy to the city.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lord (of the Rings) hear my prayer

Andrew Fifield
Metro | Toronto

A Brazilian woman claimed a late entrant to the "funniest discovery of 2016" after learning an elderly relative had been unknowingly praying daily to a Lord of the Rings tchotchke.

Gabriela Brandao, a beautician from Florianapolis, had a hunch something was amiss with what a great-grandmother thought was a figurine of a Catholic saint.

"My daughter's great-grandmother prays to this figure of San Antonio every day," Brandao wrote on Facebook. "But looking closer…"

Such an inspection revealed the figure's finery had more of an environmentalist bent, which is more indicative of Elrond, the half-elf Lord of Rivendell, and not in fact Saint Anthony, the patron saint of lost things.

Something seemed off about a Brazilian woman's Saint Anthony figurine. FACEBOOK

Police patrol Ft. Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport a day after Esteban Santiago's alleged shooting spree. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Questions swirling in Florida

FORT LAUDERDALE

Iraq veteran charged in the deaths of five people

Florida airport shooting suspect Esteban Santiago, facing federal charges that could potentially result in a death sentence, has his first court hearing Monday.

Santiago, a 26-year-old Iraq war veteran from Anchorage, Alaska, is charged with committing violence against people at an international airport resulting in death and with two firearms offences. The hearing Monday is only the beginning of what will likely be a lengthy journey through the federal court system following the shooting at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport that killed five people and wounded six others.

HOW LIKELY IS THE DEATH PENALTY?

Although the charges carry a potential death sentence, the Justice Department will decide later whether to pursue that penalty assuming Santiago is convicted. Many other issues can come into play, such as whether he decides to plead guilty or go to trial. Guilty pleas usually do not result in death sentences.

DOES SANTIAGO HAVE A DEFENCE?

Uphill at best. There are dozens of witnesses to the shooting and the FBI said in an affidavit that he told agents in a post-arrest interview how he planned the attack, what weapon he brought with him to Florida, how he loaded the gun from his checked luggage in an airport bathroom and came out firing. There is also video surveillance of the shooting that shows the shooting and its aftermath. Santiago was arrested after running out of ammunition and lying spread-eagle on the floor until a deputy took him in to custody, his 9mm handgun nearby.

WHAT ABOUT MENTAL ISSUES?

Santiago's attorney can ask for a mental competency evaluation to determine if he is fit to stand trial. It's a fairly high standard for any defendant to escape criminal charges because of mental problems because many defendants understand the difference between right and wrong. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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URBAN ETIQUETTE ELLEN VANSTONE

THE QUESTION

Should I lie my way out of being bridesmaid to my husband's best friend's fiancée who I don't like?

Dear Ellen,

My husband's best friend got engaged over Christmas, and now his fiancée asked me to be her bridesmaid. I don't want to do it. I've already been a bridesmaid four times this year. I don't like her. I tried to put her off by politely declining the "honour" but she won't accept no for an answer. It's so much work and expense even when you like the person. My current plan is to lie my way out of it. Advice?

Reluctant Bridesmaid

Dear Reluctant Bridesmaid,

Hmmm, I'm thinking The Reluctant Bridesmaid would be an excellent title for a horror movie. Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

With the bare facts you have supplied, I would say you owe this person nothing, and that a firm "thank you but I really must say no" is a more-than-acceptable way to get out of it.

I would also condone a big fat fake excuse, as I believe that lying one's face off to get out of certain (but not all) situations in order to avoid hurting someone's feelings is also completely acceptable.

The problem here is that your husband is a liability. If he's the groom's best friend, he will no doubt attend the wedding, and possibly even act as best man. Which would make him a conspicuous presence at the proceedings. Which means you can't pretend to have a terrible disease, or a dying relative, or that you are on a dangerous intergalactic mission to save the world, without making him look like a total d— for blowing you off to attend the nuptials.

If she's marrying your husband's best friend, you have to take the men's relationship into account.

As for telling the brutal truth, you may not care what the fiancée thinks of you. But if she's marrying your husband's best friend, you have to take the men's relationship into account.

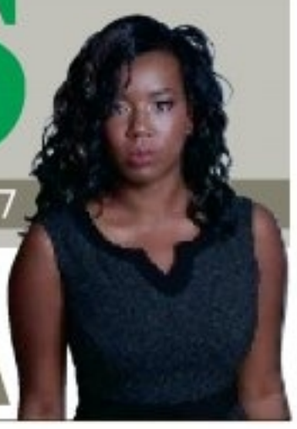
Ideally, the two of them will socialize and do guy things without involving you womenfolk for the rest of their lives. (And I have to say, the old-fashioned habit of forced double-dating between couples is a tradition that deserves to die ASAP.)

But if there's any chance the best friend would be hurt by your refusal to join the wedding party, or that his hurt feelings might affect your husband's friendship with him, you must take that into account.

It doesn't mean you need to submit to emotional blackmail and agree to trot up the aisle with Bridezilla. It just means you have to discuss it with your husband, and work something out. Maybe he'll agree the guilt-trip bridesmaid gig is a lot of expense and trouble that's too much to ask, and you'll both agree to find a way out of it, regardless of what his best friend thinks. Or maybe he'll feel it's important to his friend, and ask you to suck it up — at which point you will have to make up your own mind what to do.

Whatever your choice, make sure your own precious marriage doesn't get sacrificed on the wedding altar of people you don't care about at all.

Need advice?
Email Ellen:
scene@metronews.ca



VICKY MOCHAMA

Canada will party while indigenous kids are denied services

For the vast portion of Canadian history, indigenous communities have been stripped of their rights. Underfunding students, bickering over health costs, and allowing children to slip into child welfare cracks is how those rights continue to be abridged.

According to a report last week in the Globe and Mail, over the next year, the federal government plans to spend nearly half a billion dollars on Canada 150. While some of that money will go towards promoting truth and reconciliation, spending millions on a party while indigenous children, families and communities fight for equitable services is a hypocrisy.

Last week, the Toronto Star reported that the Assembly of First Nations and First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada filed a motion to the human rights tribunal asking for the federal government to be found guilty. One year ago, the tribunal ordered the government to comply with Jordan's Principle, a law enacted in 2007. The motion alleges that they have failed to heed the tribunal's orders.

Jordan's Principle requires the government to take a child-first approach to providing services to all First Nations children. The government that is first contacted — be it federal or provincial — takes on the cost of a child's services and seeks to solve jurisdictional issues only after those services have first been paid for.

The law is meant to ensure that all indigenous children receive equal access to government services with the same level of service that non-indigenous children do.

In education, for example, there are significant gaps between what indigenous students on-reserve receive versus provincially funded students. (Education is a provincial responsibility, except in the case of First Nations children living on-reserve.)

A report last month from the parliamentary budget office found shortfalls in what Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) provided for students on-reserve and what their provincial counterpart receive. In their estimation, the funding shortfall between what INAC paid for and what the various provinces would be between $336 million and $665 million in 2016-2017.

The human rights tribunal case — and many others — is evidence of an ongoing process of depriving indigenous children of equitable and humane services.

Organizations like First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada are continually forced to sue the government to provide for services that are standard and sacrosanct for non-indigenous children.

The most recent federal budget provides $3.7 billion in funding for indigenous students over the next five years. But too much of that money won't be seen for a few years yet. Generations of indigenous children will be lost in the meantime.

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‘When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose’: Streep

GOLDEN GLOBES

Meryl Streep speech delivers takedown of Donald Trump

In accepting her speech for a lifetime achievement award at Sunday night’s Golden Globes, Meryl Streep used the opportunity to criticize U.S. president-elect Donald Trump.

“When the powerful use their position to bully others, we all lose,” said Streep, referencing Trump’s mocking of a reporter with a disability.

The actress also gave an ode to her fellow actors in a changing Hollywood, referencing the diverse cultural backgrounds of Dev Patel, Ruth Negga, and others. (Even Ryan Gosling received mention for being Canadian.) She used that as an opportunity to take a shot at Trump’s intolerant stance when it comes to immigration.

“Hollywood is crawling with outsiders and foreigners and if you kick them all out, you’ll have nothing to watch but football and mixed martial arts, which are not the arts,” Streep said to loud applause.

La La Land came into the Golden Globes as the big favourite. Damien Chazelle’s Los Angeles musical, which had a leading seven nominations, won best actor for Gosling, best screenplay for Chazelle’s script, best score (Justin Hurwitz) and best song for “City of Stars,” and best musical or comedy film.

In one of the evening’s more emotional acceptance speeches, Gosling dedicated his award to his late brother-in-law, Juan Carlos Mendes.

“While I was singing and dancing and playing piano and having one of the best experiences I’ve ever had on a film, my lady was raising our daughter, pregnant with our second and trying to help her brother fight his battle with cancer,” said Gosling, referring to his partner, Eva Mendes.

The Globes got off to a rocky start, when a broken teleprompter initially froze Fallon. “Cut to Justin Timberlake, please,” implored a desperately improvising Fallon. It was the second fiasco for Globes producer Dick Clark Productions, which presented the infamous Mariah Carey flub on New Year’s Eve.

In a more truncated monologue, Fallon’s sharpest barbs weren’t directed at celebrities but president-elect Trump. He compared Trump to the belligerent teenage king Joffrey of Games of Thrones. Fallon’s first line (at least once the teleprompter was up) was introducing the Globes as “one of the few places left where America still honours the popular vote.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/METRO

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1 **Sparkle and shine** — Futuristic metallics were all over the red carpet at this year’s Golden Globes. From left: **Ruth Negga** in Louis Vuitton, **Regina King** in Romona Keveza, **Emma Stone** in Valentino and **Chrissy Teigen** in Marchesa.

2 **Parade of pinks** — **Lily Collins** wore a princessy Zuhair Murad gown — one of many actresses in pink. “I love this colour. It’s fun, it’s fresh, it’s great,” she said.

3 **Comedy gold —** “It’s nice here, at 44,” joked **Tracee Ellis Ross,** referencing her age, when she won for best actress in a comedy for her role in Black-ish.

4 **Art and heart** — **Viola Davis**, best supporting actress, said of Fences: “It doesn’t scream moneymaker but it does scream art. It does scream heart.”

Kohler savours Workin' progress

COMEDY

Portraying women with 'well-rounded problems'

Genna Buck
Metro

Writer and stand-up comedian Rebecca Kohler has been flexing her funny bone in the writers' room of such shows as Schitt's Creek and Kim's Convenience.

Now she's working on the sitcom Workin' Moms, CBC's new, irreverent take on the quest to have it all. But before she hit it big in the world of TV, she was the resident funny lady on the Metro Views page. We caught up with her to talk about the show, how she got into the mind of a mom and the *real* story behind its unique title.

Jenny (Jessalyn Wanlim), Anne (Dani Kind), Kate (Catherine Reitman), and Frankie (Juno Rinaldi) star in CBC's Workin' Moms, which premieres on Tuesday, Jan. 10. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tell me about the premise of this show.

There's four main characters and they all have jobs and they all have kids. That's the through line. They have very different lives, with different, well-rounded problems and perspectives. I think four different female characters, all interesting, all funny, all touching at times — you don't get a lot of room in a lot of situations to portray women like that.

How did you get involved?

My agent sent me a sizzle reel. It's almost like a trailer for what the show could look like. And I really liked it. I thought, 'these characters are interesting, the type of women I feel like I would hang out with.' And it was funny. I really connected with it. And I had an interview with Catherine Reitman (who plays the lead, Kate Foster) and Philip Sternberg (her co-star and real-life husband), who are both executive producers of the show, and about a month later I found out that they wanted to hire me.

> **These are the type of women I feel like I would hang out with.** Rebecca Kohler

The tone seems a little bit more tart than an average CBC comedy...

Tart is what it is. It's not vanilla. I've worked on a few CBC shows this year, and I feel like (the network) is trying to, outside of just Workin' Moms, step out of what people have come to think of as the CBC. They're trying to take more risks. There are definitely things in this show that will make the average CBC viewer be like, "What channel is this that I'm watching?"

There are other working mothers on TV. Why does this need to happen now?

It's not just about having women on TV and film. It's about having real women. These women are portrayed the way men have always been portrayed. It's (also) not just about being a mom. It's about being a woman who is like, "You can't grab me by the f—ing p—sy! Go f—k yourself!" Pardon my language.

You had to put yourself in the mom headspace to write this — but you don't have children. How did you go about that?

All of my best friends have children. I talk to my best friend who I've known for 20-plus years, and hear her stories. I never want to say I've lived as a mom and I know what it's like. I don't, and I would never presume. Part of what I'm good at is listening and respecting those stories and trying to communicate them as best I can.

This show really has a sense of place. It's so obviously Toronto. Can you talk a little bit about the importance of the setting?

A lot of the Toronto stuff came out through the photography and directing. When Catherine and Philip looked at Toronto, they were like 'Wow, what an amazing city, we want to showcase this.' We had an email chain where Catherine would drive by graffiti, take a photo of it and say, 'We need this in the show!' I think this is a perfect mix of showcasing a world-class city but also keeping it kind of universal.

The women are all extremely glamorous and well put-together — although I'm sure we'll see them get into all sorts of messy mom situations. Are these characters relatable?

We discussed that a lot in the (writers') room. You're right that this is not depicting a poor single mom. There's a fantasy element to it. These women are relatively privileged, but even someone with some privilege can have a hard time.

Why is it called Workin' Moms instead of Working Moms?

It was called Workin' Moms when I started, and it stayed Workin' Moms. It's because they're so busy, they don't have time to say the G! (laughs).

This interview has been edited and condensed for clarity.

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YOU CAN DO THIS EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Shaping children's futures

WHY I LIKE MY JOB

Marie O Connell, 33, Early Childhood Educator.

Back in high school, I was basically the neighbourhood babysitter. Now that I think about it, I feel like I spent most of my Friday and Saturday nights doing arts and crafts with a bunch of five- and six-year-olds. My friends and family always said I'd make a great mom (I'm now a proud mother of two), so naturally I ended up enrolling in the early childhood education program at Red River College when I was 19.

Today I specialize in running before- and after-school programs for children with varying disabilities. In this role, it's important that I keep current in CPR and First Aid certification while maintaining an environment that consistently protects the security, health and well-being of all children up to 12 years.

I love a challenge, and my job certainly comes with several. I must plan and carry out inclusive programs that promote all areas of child development — all while keeping upwards of 15 kids entertained by stories, songs, crafts and snacks. It's a job that requires strong interpersonal skills, flexibility, judgment and a fun personality. If that speaks to any job seekers, I say go for it!

THE BASICS: Early Childhood Educator

$33,071

Median annual salary at entry-level, with the capacity to earn upwards of **$45,000** annually with five or more years of experience.

+8%

Projected rate of job growth over the next eight years.

Data for this feature was provided by payscale.com, trade-schools.ca, jobbank.gc.ca and onetonline.org

HOW TO START

Most ECEs possess a diploma or degree in early childhood education and/or child development. The most direct route would be to enrol in a two-year college program offering field placement opportunities. In most provinces, ECE graduates must obtain formal licensing from a provincial association to practise in the field.

WHERE YOU CAN GO

ECEs work primarily with children from infancy to eight years, and thus have a profound impact on a child's development. Families place their trust in child care centres, nursery schools and the elementary school system to assist in the development of their child. Employment in this sector is expected to remain strong in Canada, especially with the prevalence of newcomer families.

NEXT CAREER STEP

Professionals seeking work opportunities or career advancement may consider joining a recognized affiliation or association, many of which provide members with updates on continuing education courses, networking events and curriculum development strategies. Additionally, employers typically hire professionals with current CPR certification, immunization records and knowledge of the Day Nurseries Act.

MONEY

No better time to get your financial house back in order

At the start of a new year, budgeting and savings goals are top of mind for many. Metro's editors selected their favourite pieces of advice from **this past year's Gail Vaz-Oxlade columns** that you may find useful. Whether you're a first-time home buyer or you just want to save for a great vacation this summer, these money management tips from Gail may help:

Creating a financial roadmap that your partner can understand and buy into can be a major help. ISTOCK

Clear the debt doubts

Recalculate your budget assuming your debt is gone and all that debt repayment money is yours for the keeping.

This is a great exercise for three reasons:

1. You will remind yourself of just how dumb debt is.
2. You will enjoy the anticipation of being debt free and that will help keep you on track.
3. You can start planning what you'll do with the money once you do get to debt-free forever.

Settle the score on credit

You should understand how a credit score is calculated and the extent to which it is based on you doing the wrong thing with your credit. The very things that give you a high score — that make you a profitable customer — are completely counter to sound money management.

Despite the fact that I pay off my balance in full every month, the credit scoring system penalizes me if it randomly checks my "credit utilization" and it's up too high. No one can predict the exact point at which the credit scoring system checks a balance, so if I'm close to my limit just before I plan to pay off my balance, I'd lose points big-time.

Quit chasing a high credit score. Focus on managing your money smartly and getting to debt-free forever. Then your credit score won't matter a whit.

Map out your way

You may think your filing system is intuitive because you've gone to great pains to organize it and put things in a logical order, but the first time your partner looks at it, they'll be lost.

Create a list of what's what and where it is so that there is a roadmap your honey can follow. There's a good chance that you're counting on your awesome memory for a lot of what you do. Putting it on paper will help you to identify where there may be steps you have overlooked.

Don't give in to impulse

Emotions play a huge role in our desire to impulse-buy. If we're angry, stressed, guilty or bored, we're more likely to impulse purchase. No doubt that's why instead of buying useful or necessary stuff, impulse shoppers buy things that put them in a better mood.

That old adage "don't go shopping on an empty stomach" doesn't just apply to grocery shopping. Psychologists at the National University of Singapore had participants shop in a room with an unscented candle or one with a cookie-scented candle. The shoppers exposed to the yummy smelling candle made more unplanned purchases. In fact, 50 per cent more people made purchases in the cookie room, even though both groups were told that they had a tight budget. Stimulating the appetite causes people to crave immediate gratification. That's where sleeping on it comes into play.

If you walk away from the idea of the buy, giving your brain enough time to weigh it up you're moving from impulse shopping to problem recognition (and satisfaction).

Don't skip on inspection

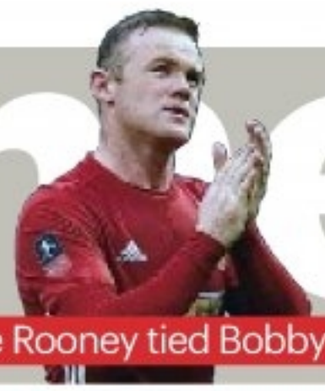
There's an alarming trend among the people who are desperate to get into the housing market: they skip a home inspection or, having had one done, they completely ignore the report.

It makes no sense to put good money down on what will likely be your single biggest investment without getting a professional opinion on the state of property you're considering.

Hire a good home inspector. Please. Currently, only British Columbia and Alberta regulate home inspectors, although Ontario may jump on this bandwagon shortly.

Home inspectors are a dime a dozen, and some are downright awful. But a good one can help you feel confident in laying down your buck-sixty-two

metro SPORTS



Wayne Rooney tied Bobby Charlton as Manchester United's all-time leading scorer with his 249th goal on Saturday in a 4-0 win over Reading

Green Bay prayers answered by Rodgers

NFL PLAYOFFS

Packers QB tosses up more long-ball magic vs. Giants

Aaron Rodgers, master of the Hail Mary pass, struck again in another big moment.

Rodgers overcame a sluggish start and finished with four touchdown passes, including a momentum-swinging 42-yard heave to Randall Cobb at the end of the second quarter, to lead the Green Bay Packers to a 38-13 win Sunday over the New York Giants in the NFC wild-card game in Wisconsin.

The Packers move on to face the Dallas Cowboys in the divisional round next week.

Rodgers was 25 of 40 for 362 yards, continuing a remarkable run of quarterback play that helped the Packers win their final six games of the regular season to take the NFC North. Cobb finished with five receptions for 116 yards and three scores.

For much of the first half, the Giants' defence flustered the two-time NFL MVP. They got pressure on Rodgers and the secondary blanketed the Packers' talented receiving corps, and a few boos even rained down from the stands after New York built a 6-0 lead on two field goals by Robbie Gould.

Randall Cobb catches a 42-yard touchdown pass on Sunday evening in Green Bay, Wis.
STACY REVERE/GETTY IMAGES

SCORES

WILD-CARD WEEKEND
Saturday
Texans 27, Raiders 14
Seahawks 26, Lions 6
Sunday
Steelers 30, Dolphins 12
Packers 38, Giants 13

As it turned out, Rodgers was just getting started.

"We hit a Hail Mary. That got us going," Rodgers said.

Green Bay scored two touchdowns in the final 2:20 of the second quarter, punctuated by another remarkable desperation pass by Rodgers.

With the ball on the Giants 42, Rodgers took the snap with six seconds left. He rolled to his right before heaving a throw from about the Packers 47. Cobb somehow got behind three defensive backs near the back of the end zone to haul in the pass, getting both feet down before falling out of bounds.

The Giants looked stunned, just like how the Detroit Lions and Arizona Cardinals looked last season after Rodgers pulled off similar feats.

"Davante (Adams) made a bunch of plays," Rodgers said. "And Randall Cobb, who this offence has been missing for a long time. We're better with 18 on the field and he showed it tonight."

Rodgers and Cobb weren't done.

They connected again on a 30-yard touchdown pass late in the third quarter for a 21-13 lead. That score answered a Giants scoring drive that briefly cut the deficit to one. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SOCCER

FIFA primed to expand World Cup

FIFA is set to make the World Cup bigger and richer, even if the price to pay is lower quality soccer.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino hopes his ruling Council will agree Tuesday to expand the 2026 World Cup to 48 nations, playing in 16 groups of three teams.

A decision could be delayed if some Council members demand to know exactly how many qualifying places each continent will get before agreeing to scrap the 32-team format. It has been successful, popular and profitable since 1998 and is locked in for the next two World Cups in Russia and Qatar.

The prize of 16 extra places, and the biggest increases to Africa and Asia, has "overwhelming" support from FIFA's 211 member federations, Infantino has said.

> **The driver should really be the development of football and boosting football all over the world.**
> President Gianni Infantino

Their promise of extra funding from Zurich could also be secured by FIFA's forecast 20 per cent rise in rights fees paid by broadcasters and sponsors.

World Cup champion Germany is among those not in favour. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Penguins pump six pucks past Bolts

Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 28 shots in his fifth straight win, leading the Pittsburgh Penguins to a 6-2 victory over the Tampa Bay Lightning on Sunday.

Fleury, who has not lost in regulation since allowing six goals to the Minnesota on Nov. 25, is 7-0-1 in his last eight decisions.

Connor Sheary had a goal and an assist, and Eric Fehr, Chris Kunitz, Scott Wilson, Phil Kessel and Kris Letang also scored for the Penguins. Sidney Crosby and Matt Cullen each two assists.

Jonathan Drouin and Vladislav Namestnikov scored for the Lightning, and Andrei Vasilevskiy made 31 saves in his third start in four days. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SUNDAY In Pittsburgh

6	2
PENGUINS	LIGHTNING

Seahawks' running game finds its legs

Thomas Rawls GETTY IMAGES

It was the most obvious question in the aftermath of Thomas Rawls and the Seattle Seahawks running their way to another playoff victory.

Where has that kind of a run game been hiding for most of the season?

"I really had a sense it was going to happen," Seattle coach Pete Carroll said wryly after the Seahawks' 26-6 win over Detroit on Saturday night. "No, I didn't. But I'm telling you, that's the game we've been looking for."

Nothing has been more inconsistent for Seattle than its run game. Hampered by injuries, blocking issues and plain ineffectiveness, the belief was if the Seahawks were going to make a run in the playoffs it would be because of Russell Wilson's arm and the passing game.

15

In the final six games of the regular season, Rawls had more than 15 carries once. He had 15 carries for 107 yards by halftime Saturday.

There was no evidence the kind of performance Saturday night was about to happen. In the final three games of the regular season, Seattle averaged 79 yards per game rushing, 2.9 yards per carry. That included a lacklustre 87 yards in the regular-season finale against San Francisco, the worst rush defence in the NFL.

So what changed against the Lions to where Rawls got 27 carries and set a franchise playoff record with 161 yards rushing?

"Nothing magic," Seattle right tackle Garry Gilliam said. "It was the same scheme that we've run all year. It was the same people running the same plays. It was a matter of locking in." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Thomas holds on to win Tournament of Champions

Justin Thomas bounced back in time Sunday to hold off Hideki Matsuyama and win the SBS Tournament of Champions.

Justin Thomas GETTY IMAGES

Thomas closed with a 4-under 69 and ended Matsuyama's bid for a fourth straight win. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Harden hangs 40-point triple-double on Raptors

James Harden scored 40 points to lift Houston to a 129-122 victory over the Toronto Raptors on Sunday, for the Rockets' eighth consecutive win.

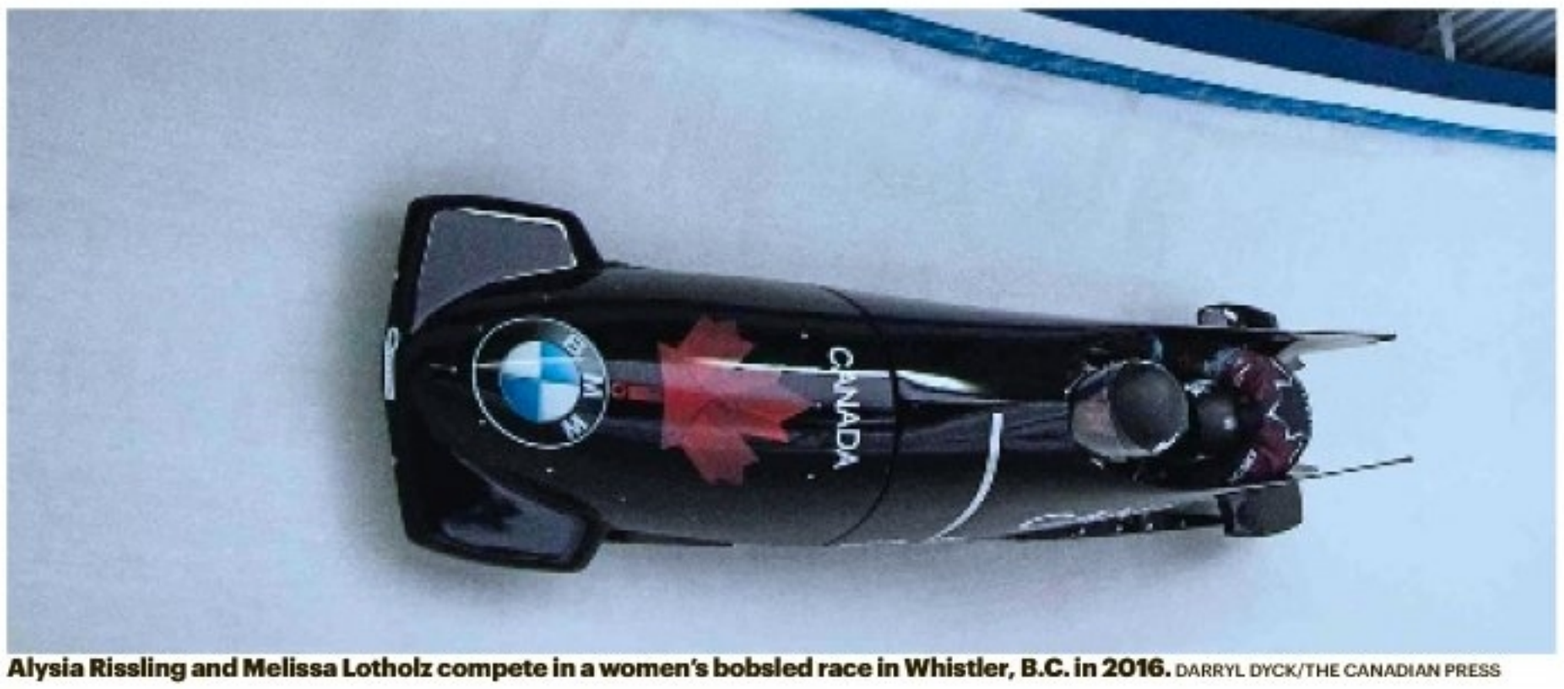
The Raptors' loss spoiled excellent performances from DeMar DeRozan, who had 36 points, and DeMarre Carroll, who had a career-high six three pointers en route to 26 points.

Harden also had 10 rebounds and 11 assists. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rissling's commitment undeniable

BOBSLED

Athlete spends heavily aiming to succeed in sport she loves



Alysia Rissling and Melissa Lotholz compete in a women's bobsled race in Whistler, B.C. in 2016. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

In sports lore, winning comes down to physical excellence, commitment to training and gritty effort in competition.

But long before any of that has a chance to show itself, success in sports often comes down to money.

In the early days, it takes parents who can afford equipment, fees and travel — and later on, in the case of an Olympic sport such as bobsled, the willingness to set aside a normal career path and continue to pay to compete.

That's why Alysia Rissling, who has a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology, chooses to wait tables for a living.

"It's the fastest money you can make without the commitment to a schedule," the 28-year-old says. Her one and only commitment right now is to bobsledding, and piloting a sled down an icy track, she's come to discover, is a costly enterprise.

"If I would have known how much this sport would cost me, in terms of sacrifice for my long-term career goals and actual costs, I would never have got into it," she says. "But I got into it, and the more I got into it (the more) I fell in love with the sport and everything else got put on the back burner."

That's why she doubled down ahead of this season, her first on the World Cup circuit, and bought a bobsled she felt was fast enough to give her a chance to be competitive.

Paying close to $100,000 for a sleek black shell on steel runners and not much in the way of steering wasn't in her original plans. She'd hoped to get one from Bobsleigh Canada, but when the team decided to allot a new sled to the men's third-ranked pilot rather than Rissling, the second women's driver, she felt she had no choice. "You come so far and tell yourself: I'm not going to get anywhere unless I really commit to it and purchase myself a competitive sled," the Edmonton native says.

And that's when it turned out that her last job at a diner in Calgary was worth a lot more than minimum wage and tips.

Mark Bishop, a regular customer with time on his hands because of the downturn in the Alberta oil and gas industry, made it his project to help secure sponsors so Rissling could buy her sled. "It's fast. It's light," she says of her sled, nicknamed Bagheera after the black panther in The Jungle Book. "I'm in love with it. It's the greatest decision I've made."

It's fast. It's light. I'm in love with it. It's the greatest decision I've made.

Alysia Rissling on her new sled called Bagheera, named after the black panther in The Jungle Book movie.

Rissling's rise — she placed fourth and fifth in her first two World Cup races this year — along with a few more brakemen willing to pay as much as $7,000 in fees to compete, brings some much-needed depth to Canada's bobsled team. In recent years, the Canadians haven't had much success behind two-time Olympic champion Kaillie Humphries.

Canada hadn't had two women's sleds on the World Cup circuit since 2014. For much of this season — crucial to qualifying multiple sleds for the 2018 Olympics — there will be three. Humphries, with two golds and a bronze so far this season, continues to lead the way with a pair of strong brakemen, Melissa Lotholz and Cynthia Appiah. Christine de Bruin is piloting the third women's team. Canada also has three sleds on the men's side. Rissling and brakeman Genevieve Thibault race next on Friday in Winterberg, Germany.

The dream of competing in the Olympics and the love of speed drew Rissling to this sport. But with no engine, her maximum speed down the track depends on how fast she and her brakeman push the sled off the start line. Attracting and retaining quality athletes, particularly on the women's side, is no easy feat. Women still only have a two-person Olympic event while the men have twos and fours, giving male brakemen far more opportunities to compete at the Olympics.

In 2014, bobsled's world governing body made the four-man event gender neutral, technically allowing women to compete, and Humphries has — first with a crew of three men and now with three women. But they'll never be competitive at the World Cup level given the size and strength difference.

Humphries and Rissling, who has also piloted a sled with three women, are hoping their sport — urged on by the International Olympic Committee's push for gender equality — will eventually give women two events, too.

"If we had more women involved in the sport, we could offer more opportunities to go to the Olympics and you can attract a bigger funding base, but we can't get more women in because we don't have this event to offer," Rissling said.

"It's hard to recruit brakemen coming from other sports where they are getting paid. It's a tough sell," she said, referring to track in particular. Still, it's one that Lotholz, who grew up in a farming family in Barrhead, Alta., jumped at.

The former University of Alberta sprinter was named to Humphries' team two days before she was scheduled to restart classes at the University of Calgary. "Oh, looks like I'm doing bobsled. Drop all classes," Lotholz said, recalling the moment she got the news. "It's a big commitment and a big sacrifice, but it's one of those things. Unless you take big risks, you don't get the rewards."

Last year, Lotholz hit the podium in all eight World Cups and world championships while pushing for Humphries. This year, she and Appiah are sharing that role, and while no athlete wants to sit out a race, it's a sign of growing team depth.

"I believe Canada has the potential to field three strong (women's) teams at the 2018 Olympic Games," Lotholz said.

TORONTO NEWS SERVICE

SOCCER

Klopp's team choice backfires in FA Cup

Jurgen Klopp's decision to field Liverpool's youngest ever team backfired Sunday as the Premier League title contender was held 0-0 at home by fourth-tier Plymouth in the third round of the FA Cup.

Tottenham manager Mauricio Pochettino also made sweeping changes, and was made to sweat as his side left it late to beat second-tier Aston Villa 2-0. Chelsea had an easier time, sweeping aside third-tier Peterborough 4-1, with Spanish forward Pedro scoring twice. With games coming thick and fast during the festive season and a midweek trip to Southampton looming in the first leg of the League Cup semi-finals, Klopp made 10 changes from the team that drew 2-2 with Sunderland on Monday.

Jurgen Klopp GETTY IMAGES

But instead of keeping players rested for other competitions, the Liverpool manager now faces an unwanted replay at Plymouth.

"It's my responsibility, the whole thing, the lineup and performance. We could have done better," Klopp said. "If you want to see it (the result) in a bad way then I am 100 per cent responsible."

Liverpool is in second place in the Premier League and well positioned to challenge for the title. Plymouth is second, too, but in the far less glamorous League Two. Despite this it still seemed a risky move by Klopp to select a team with an average age of 21 years, 296 days.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Scheidegger and Gushue win Canadian Open titles

Casey Scheidegger could only watch last year's Canadian Open.

This year she's the women's champion. Scheidegger, from Lethbridge, Alta., downed Switzerland's Silvana Tirinzoni 5-4 on Sunday in the Open final to win the title in her Grand Slam of Curling debut.

Brad Gushue of St. John's, N.L., threw a perfect 100 per cent in the men's final earlier Sunday to defeat Sweden's Niklas Edin 8-3 and capture his seventh career Grand Slam of Curling title.

Gushue made a draw with his last rock in the sixth end to score a three count with Edin on the ropes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shiffrin returns to top of podium in World Cup race

Not even a broken gate rolling down the course could stop Olympic slalom champion Mikaela Shiffrin from returning to the top of the podium in her favourite discipline. The American won a women's World Cup race Sunday, five days after she had failed to finish a slalom run for the first time in four years.

In light snowfall, the American was leading the field by 0.19 seconds when a gate that she had just passed correctly broke and flew down the hill. Shiffrin skied over it but managed to stay on the course. She fell 0.09 off the lead due to the incident, but accelerated in the bottom section to take the win.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SKIING

Harvey earns Tour de Ski career best

Alex Harvey of St-Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que., finished a career-best seventh on Sunday in the Tour de Ski in Italy. The 28-year-old Harvey finished the final stage of the circuit — a nine-kilometre skate-ski pursuit race that finishes with the final three kilometres straight up an alpine ski hill that boasts a 28 per cent hill grade — in 33 minutes 7.4 seconds.

"It was quite good today. That was the best position ever for me up the climb, and I had the 14th best time on the day," said Harvey, who also skied faster than the overall leader Sergey Ustiugov on the day.

"I was skiing with Manificat and Heikkinen who had the top-two times on the day. I was with them for a bit, but they crushed everyone on the hill."

Alex Harvey GETTY IMAGES

Russia's Ustiugov won the final stage and overall Tour de Ski. Ustiugov won an unprecedented six of the seven stages — finishing with a winning time of 30:27.7.

Saturday's race winner, Norway's Martin Johnsrud Sundby, was second to reach the top of the mountain with a time of 31:30.6. Switzerland's Dario Cologna finished 45 seconds off the leading place in third at 31:46.8.

Canada's only other finisher was Devon Kershaw of Sudbury, Ont., who is one of only three athletes in the world to have started all 11 Tours. Kershaw finished in 25th place on Sunday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MAKE IT TONIGHT

Individual Breakfast Pizzas

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Let's start this week off easy, shall we? How about breakfast for dinner in the form of this delicious little pizza that comes together in a snap.

Ready in 25 minutes
Prep time: 5
Cook time: 20
Serves 2

Ingredients
- 2 pitas
- 1 cup passata (or tomato or pizza sauce)
- Salt and pepper
- 1 1/2 to 2 cups mozzarella, grated
- 1/4 cup crisply fried bacon, crumbled
- Few leaves of basil
- 2 eggs

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 450 F. Place pitas on baking sheet. Pour tomato sauce on pitas and spread around. Leave a little edge clear of sauce all the way around.

2. Sprinkle cheese on each pita and push out the edges so you make a nest for each egg. Sprinkle basil and bacon around the edge of cheese nest. Gently crack an egg in the middle.

3. Slide sheet carefully into oven. Bake 15 to 20 minutes, depending on how done you like your eggs.

4. Use a spatula to move egg pizza to a cutting board where you'll cut each pizza into four. Serve with slices of avocado, sour cream and a bit of salsa. Enjoy!

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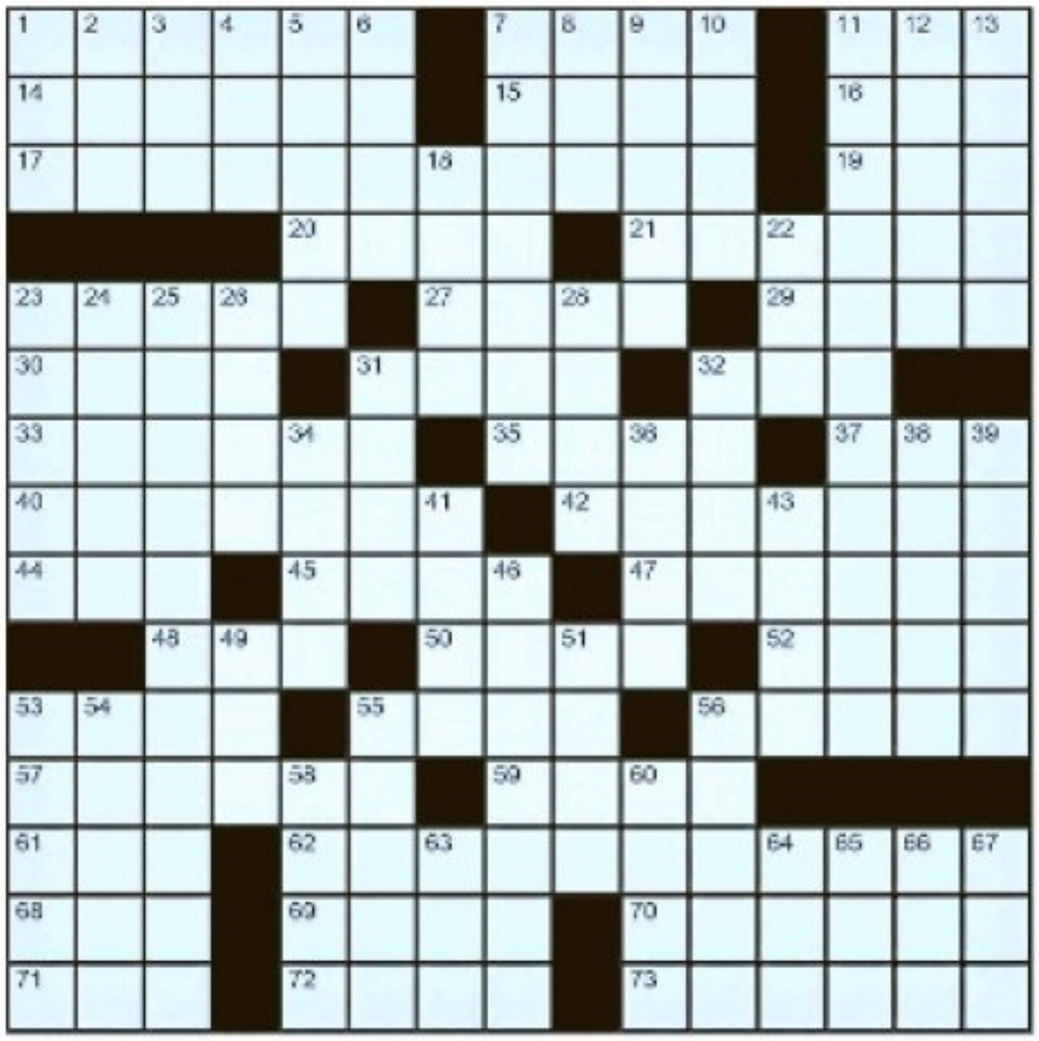
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. "I didn't realize it would take __." (I thought this would be over by now)
7. _-Carotene
11. Nevertheless
14. Affirmation, fancy-style
15. Get __ the ground floor
16. Clearasil rival, _ 5
17. Patented in 1894, Canadian inventor Theodore Witte's invention in your tool kit: 2 wds.
19. Knock at the door
20. Give off
21. Be bothersome
23. Greenfly, for one
27. Trivial things to pick
29. Immature newts
30. Repented
31. Gentle
32. Kingston Trio lettered tune
33. How most medication is taken
35. Consequently
37. Pen's cover
40. Imposing, as taxes
42. Master at La Scala
44. Grassy field
45. Caspian and Tyrrhenian
47. Flunky
48. Ho-hum habituation
50. Inscribe
52. Barrel
53. Mr. Kinnear
55. Unadorned
56. #11-Down is situated at its mouth, _ River
57. Hurrying-up human
59. Empire of Peru
61. Vancouver sch.
62. Nova Scotia __ Retriever (Sporting dog)
68. _-ray player
69. Rock's _ Straits
70. Oatmeal or chocolate chip
71. View
72. Burden
73. Additionally: 2 wds.

DOWN
1. Pouch
2. Latin-style eggs
3. Mr. Reed
4. Bird of the night
5. Without wearables
6. Flicker of light, for short
7. Successful spot, with The: 2 wds.
8. Manchester's country, for short
9. Experiences a destination
10. Ms. Kendrick
11. 1684: Hudson's Bay Company trading post in northeastern Manitoba which is now a National Historic Site of Canada: 2 wds.
12. Laud
13. Varieties
18. Fashion brand, _ Ricci
22. Goalie's area
23. On __ (Doing fantastic)
24. Mush (Recipe instruction)
25. Ontario's 400-series highways are the setting of Discovery Channel Canada's new series "__: 401"
26. Lazily
28. Condition
31. England: Newcastle upon _
32. _ & Chandon Champagne
34. Shopper's reference
36. Large laceration
38. Lock horns
39. Hallmark inners
41. Earth goddess of ancient Greece
43. _ crackers
46. Hits the picket line
49. "Gross!"
51. Penny
53. Chows
54. Russia's currency
55. Boston hockey player
56. Heavenly hats
58. Taro root
60. Funny lady Imogene
63. French vineyard
64. Stovetop setting
65. White House nickname
66. Zilch
67. Congeal

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
Think twice before you get into an argument with someone today, especially a sibling or relative, because you might regret it. Remember: A closed mouth gathers no feet.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
This is a poor day to make important financial decisions, because you are not 100 per cent sure about what you want to do. You're also not 100 per cent sure of the facts.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Be patient when talking with parents, bosses and authority figures today, because people are confused and impatient. Don't get involved. And never underestimate the power of courtesy.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Avoid controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues today, because these arguments will be pointless. There's too much confusion, and too much anger.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
If you need to sort out matters related to inheritances or shared property, wait another day, because this is not the day to do it. Truthfully, your heart is not in it. These talks will fail.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It's easy to be quarrelsome with partners and close friends today, which is why this is a poor day for important discussions. This also is the classic day where people can kid themselves. It's not good.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Avoid sensitive subjects like politics and religion today, especially with coworkers. These conversations will go south in a New York minute. Who needs this? Not you.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Postpone financial discussions for another day, especially about the shared cost of raising children or a social event. This is not a good day for this kind of thing.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Be accommodating with others today, because the Moon is opposite your sign. In addition, Neptune and Mars are causing you to confuse an issue. Go gently.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Keep your head down and your powder dry today when you're at work. Don't go looking for trouble. It will find you. Both Mars and Neptune will introduce confusion and anger to your discussions.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Parents should be patient with their kids today, because it's a confusing day. Likewise, it's a confusing day for romance.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Postpone important family discussions for another day because today confusion and heated emotions will color everything. Lighten up. You'll be glad you did later.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	3		1			5		4
4	7					8		
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9		6			7			
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2	1	4	9	8	5	3	7	6
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3	4	7	2	5	8	6	1	9
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8	7	2	5	9	6	1	4	3
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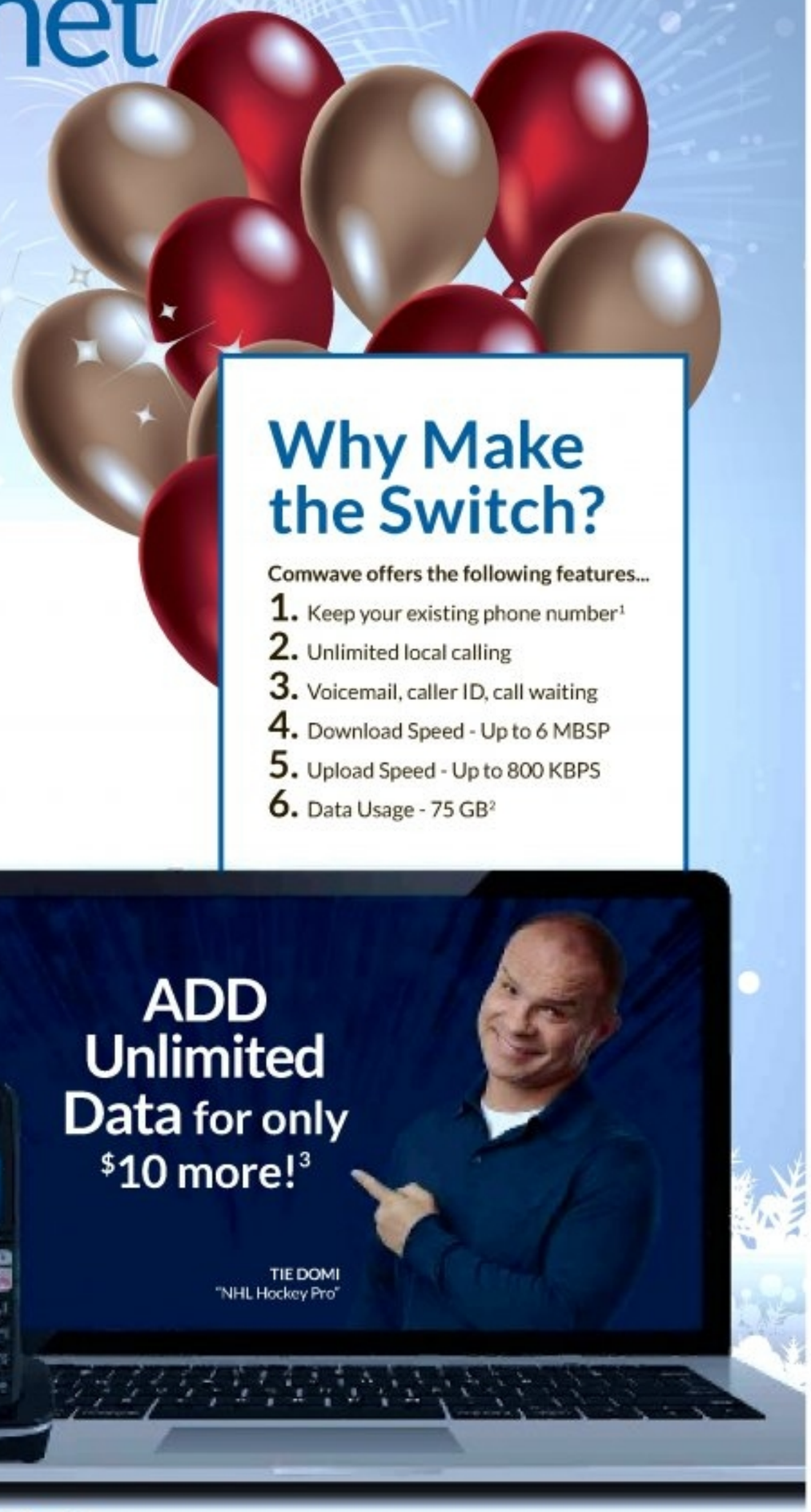

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